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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,449	12/31/2003	Michael John O'Connor	920.001	9814
32123	7590	09/22/2005	EXAMINER	
GEHRKE & ASSOCIATES, S.C. 123 N. 86th ST WAUWATOSA, WI 53226			PATTERSON, MARIE D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3728	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/749,449

Applicant(s)

O'CONNOR, MICHAEL JOHN

Examiner

Marie Patterson

Art Unit

3728

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2, and 5-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 2 and 5-20, the preamble recites "The shoe heel protector", however in these claims there is positive recitation of a shoe, such as "aligns with a first eyelet on a front of the shoe", "secured to a welt in the shoe", etc. It is not clear if applicant intends to claim a shoe or solely the protector.

Claims 8-10, and 17-19 are solely functional and do not positively recite any additional structure. These claims merely recite the intended use of the shoe and do not recite any structure. It is not clear what structural limitations applicant intends to encompass with such language.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 8-12, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Fuerst (5465509).

Fuerst shows a shoe with a heel protector (162, which is considered to be "semirigid" inasmuch as applicant has claimed and defined such) with eyelets (see figures 7 and 8) and the shoe is considered to be an "athletic shoe", "workboot", "dress shoe", or any other type of shoe based on ones individual preference as claimed.

5. Claims 1-3, 8-12, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pasternak (4670998).

Pasternak shows a shoe with a heel protector (17 and 20), with side portions (23) with apertures (34) as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 4 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuerst in view of either Bradley (Des 192208) or Gazzano (5408761).

Fuerst shows a shoe with a heel protector substantially as claimed except for ridges. Either Bradley or Gazzano teaches providing ridges on a heel protector. It would have been obvious to provide ridges as taught by Bradley or Gazzano in the shoe of Fuerst to increase strength, flexibility, etc..

8. Claims 5-7, 14-16, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pasternak (4670998) in view of Belyea (2083938).


Pasternak shows a shoe substantially as claimed except for the exact connection of the heel protector to the shoe sole, i.e. the style of manufacture. Belyea teaches the well known and conventional alternative style of manufacture using a welt (22) and stitches (20) which pass through heel protector element (24), and sole elements. It would have been obvious to use welt construction as taught by Belyea and as is well known in the art of footwear in the shoe of Pasternak to allow the shoe to be made using welt construction, for fashion desiring welt look, etc..

In reference to claims 7 and 16, the use of adhesives to attach shoe elements is extremely well known and conventional and it would have been obvious to apply adhesive to at least temporarily attach the welt to the shoe upper elements (i.e. the heel protector) to aid in manufacturing.

1. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Other useful information can be obtained at the PTO Home Page at www.uspto.gov.

In order to avoid potential delays, Technology Center 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Center at (572)272-8300 **(FORMAL FAXES ONLY)**. Please identify Examiner Marie Patterson of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet.

Any inquiry concerning the MERITS of this examination from the examiner should be directed to Marie Patterson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4559. The examiner can normally be reached from 6AM - 4PM Mon-Wed.


Marie Patterson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728